



US Mayors Climate Coalition grows to almost 200

Almost 200 mayors across the country have signed onto the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement launched by Mayor Greg Nickels in February. Participating mayors agree to work toward the global warming pollution-cutting goals of the Kyoto Protocol in their communities, and to actively promote strong climate protection policies at the state and federal levels. As of January 15, 2006, 196 mayors representing more than 40 million people in 38 different states had joined the coalition -- including the mayors of 23 of the 50 most populous cities in the country. The City is working with the US Conference of Mayors and several nonprofit organizations to grow and support the coalition. For more information, please visit www.seattle.gov/mayor.

Green Ribbon Commission develops Seattle's climate strategy

Mayor Nickels' Green Ribbon Commission on Climate Protection is developing recommendations for meeting the Kyoto Protocol target for greenhouse gas emissions reductions here in Seattle: seven percent below 1990 levels by 2012. Their recommendations, due to the mayor early this spring will focus on energy, transportation and land use, vehicles, fuels, education and outreach, partnerships, state and regional policy, and funding. [Visit the GRC website](#)

Seattle City Light achieves "no net emissions" goal

Seattle City Light in November became the first major utility in the U.S. to cut its net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to zero through a strategy of conservation, renewable energy purchases, and an innovative greenhouse gas mitigation program. "We have a fundamental belief that we can power the city without toasting the planet," Mayor Nickels said in announcing the accomplishment. City Light's GHG emissions reductions since 2000 represent the equivalent of taking 140,000 cars off the road. For more information, [read the press release](#)

Building Green in Seattle: 5 great years -- and counting

A better-than-expected "LEED Gold" rating for the new City Hall helped mark the 5th year anniversary of Seattle's successful sustainable building program. A recently released report details the first five years of accomplishments, which have helped create one of the strongest green building industries in the country. To build on that success, the program has been expanded and consolidated at the Department of Planning and Development, with a strong focus on acceleration of green building by private commercial and residential developers, as part of the 2006 budget process. [Get more information](#)

! Check it Out

Global climate disruption is linked to 150,000 deaths and five million illnesses a year, according to a recent study by the World Health Organization (WHO). For detailed information about the myriad health impacts of global warming pollution, [see the WHO web site](#).

Governor Christine Gregoire recently announced her [energy agenda](#), with a strong focus on moving Washington closer to energy independence. The four goals of the initiative are to grow farm and energy markets with biofuels, provide help for consumers, schools and small businesses; promote investments in renewable energy; and tackle climate issues.

Seattle has joined a [national effort spearheaded by the City of Austin](#) to promote the manufacture of plug-in electric hybrid vehicles. These vehicles, which exist in prototype form but are not yet mass produced, could help reduce global warming pollution by supplanting gasoline use in Seattle. The vehicles could get up to 100 miles per gallon.

The Chinese government signed a multi-billion dollar contract to design and [build a series of "eco-cities"](#) that will be self-sufficient in energy, water and most food

Green Seattle Partnership exceeds 2005 restoration goal

In its first full year of implementation, the Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) has helped achieve an eight-fold increase in restoration activity in Seattle's forested parklands. The Partnership initiated restoration in more than 75 acres this year, compared to an average of just nine acres per year in previous years. The GSP, a collaboration between the City of Seattle and the [Cascade Land Conservancy](#), was launched by Mayor Nickels in April 2004, with a goal of restoring 2500 acres of forested parklands by 2025. The Partnership's Executive Council, consisting of representatives from the City, the CLC and the community at-large, recently approved a 20-year strategic plan for the effort.

Feature Story

Seattle Trims Its Trash! Garbage down, Recycling up

Why Waste a Good Thing?

Seattle businesses and residents are recycling more than ever! Residents recycled 5.8 million more pounds of materials during the first two quarters of 2005 than the same period in 2004. Commercial garbage disposal is also down about 5% compared to the same time last year.

Nearly 3,000 businesses have signed up for Seattle's free commercial recycling program. In addition, nearly 100,000 households are using the city's new yard and food waste service, helping compost more than 35,000 tons of compostable paper, yard and vegetative food waste this year! The average Seattle household recycles more than 65 pounds of paper, plastic, metal and glass every month!

Seattle's goal is to recycle 60 percent of its waste by 2010. These requirements aim to save as much as \$2 million a year on landfill costs and keep future garbage bills low. Seattle spends \$23 million to send more than 900 million pounds of garbage to a landfill every year. Two-thirds of our garbage is made up of paper, food waste, metal, and plastic and glass bottles, jugs and jars that could be recycled.

Don't Be Left Behind-- Recycle!

Recycling Ordinance Enforcement Started Jan 1st

For the past year, garbage haulers and Seattle Public Utilities inspectors have been educating residents and businesses about Seattle's recycling ordinance and requirements. The City has been enforcing the ordinance as of January 1, 2006, which requires that residents and businesses place no more than 10 percent of items that could be recycled in their garbage. Seattle Public Utilities garbage haulers will attach a note with a reminder to recycle in case of violations.

For more information, visit www.seattle.gov/util or call (206) RECYCLE.

Got a recycling question? Ask Evelyn! askevelyn@seattle.gov

products, and produce zero greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. The first project in Dongtan (an island near the mouth of the Yangtze River near Shanghai) is scheduled to open in 2010.

Facts and Figures

Recycling 35 percent of U.S. trash saves enough energy to fuel six million homes annually, generates \$5.2 billion in raw materials each year, and reduces global warming emissions equivalent to taking 36 million cars off the road.

By recycling all of its paper, plastic, and corrugated waste generated in a year, an office building of 7,000 workers could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1,200 metric tons of carbon equivalent. This is equivalent to taking 900 cars off the road in one year.

There are more than 4,500 products available with recycled content. Incinerating 10,000 tons of waste creates one job; landfilling 10,000 tons of waste creates six jobs; recycling 10,000 tons of waste creates 36 jobs.

The global recycling industry employs more than 1.5 million people.

Americans waste or cause to be wasted nearly 1 million pounds of materials per person per year.